

REMARKS

This response is being filed pursuant to the Non-Final Office Action mailed February 17, 2006. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks below.

1. Status of the Claims

Claims 3, 6-13, 16-24 and 26-34 are presently pending in this application. Claims 3 was amended in this response. Claims 4-5 were canceled, without prejudice. No new matter was introduced as a result of these amendments.

Claims 5-7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

2. Prior Art Rejections


Claims 3-4, 8-9, 11, 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Johnson* (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,582) in view of *Peters et al.* (US Patent 6,785,768). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested

Independent claim 3 was rewritten to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Accordingly, claim 3, along with claims 6-9, 11, 13 and 16, which directly and indirectly depend upon claim 3, are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 6-13, 16-24 and 26-34 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance. If any additional fees are due in connection with this Application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from deposit account number 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. (0112740-638) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,
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